

**for the Grocery,
Pharmacy, and
Hardware Stores****1. What are the state and local guidelines for essential activities and industries?**

Both Mayor Cantrell and Governor Edwards released “Stay at Home” orders that encourage every New Orleanian to stay or work at home wherever possible. The City and State’s guidance also list “essential activities” that are permitted to continue to operate, so long as they strictly abide by all social distancing and public health directives. Many members of the grocery, pharmacy, and hardware store industry, as well as members of the public, have questions.

**2. Are grocery, pharmacy, and hardware stores allowed to operate?
Are they essential service?**

Yes. Grocery, pharmacy, and hardware stores are deemed to be “essential” under both the City and State “Stay at Home” orders. As such, businesses may continue to operate and employees may continue to commute to and from work.

3. Do grocery, pharmacy, and hardware stores need to abide by all social distancing and public health directives?

Everyone must still abide by all public health directives and guidance for safely operating in the workplace, even if their work is deemed essential and may continue.

4. What rules pertain to grocery, pharmacy, and hardware stores?

Grocery, pharmacy, and hardware stores must maintain appropriate social distancing measures and all other public health mandates.

- First and foremost, maintain at least six (6) feet of distance between all people at all times, including employees, patrons, and clients.
- Limit gathering opportunities by marking spaces for people to stand in queues inside and/or outside the store that are farther than six feet away from each other.
- Limit the number of people allowed to enter the store at one time, based on the store’s physical space and social distancing requirements.
- Actively discourage gathering of workers or clients throughout the store.
- Routinely use a disinfectant wipe or spray on high-touch surfaces in workspaces and public areas, including carts, baskets, shelves, and checkout areas.



5. What other guidance does the City recommend for grocery, pharmacy, and hardware stores?

- Create a single point of entry into the workplace and check-in and check-out all workers.
- Scan worker temperature upon entry, and anyone exhibiting signs of illness should not be allowed into the workplace.
- Ensure handwashing areas are available to employees and patrons and encourage frequent handwashing.
- Enact telework or remote work policies whenever possible to limit the number of people in one space.
- Post educational literature in multiple languages, along with daily training on appropriate conduct.
- Immediately report any cases of known COVID-19.

6. How can members of the public or employees report violations of the social distancing rules?

- Call 3-1-1 to report violations.
- Reports of any violations of the “Stay at Home” order, including these mandates for essential businesses, will be strictly enforced.

7. What are the consequences of not abiding by the rules above?

Grocery, pharmacy, and hardware stores that do not abide by the “Stay at Home” order will be subject to immediate closure and other enforcement actions.

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